MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

Post and Telegraph Offices in Bihar

4079. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open Posts and Telegraph Offices in Bihar during the year 1992-93; and

(b) if so, the details thereof district-wise with funds allocated, if any?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b). *Post Offices*: So far 171 sanctions have been issued for opening of extra departmental branch post offices in Bihar during the calender year 1992. It is further proposed to open more post offices in Bihar during the financial year 1992-93. It is not feasible to give details in this regard as the Annual Plan target for 1992-93 for oepning of post offices in the country has not been finalised. A sum of Rs. 2 crores has, however, been allocated under the head expansion of postal network in the country during the Annual plan 1992-93.

Telegraph Offices: Yes, Sir. It is proposed to open 5 (five) independent Telegraph Offices and 30 (thirty) Combined Post & Telegraph Offices in Bihar during the year 1992-93.

The Independent Telegraph Offices are proposed to be opened in the districts of Berh, Banka, Chatra, Garhwa and Gumla. The places for opening of Combined Post & Telegrah Offices are normally decided on the basis of demand and feasibility. For such works, funds are allotted on lumpsum basis.

Theft at Aerodromes

4080. SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of thefts reported at different aerodromes, after the deposit of luggage in air-flights during the last three years;

(b) the details of cases of thefts solved, the number of requests received for compensation, number of persons compensated and the amount given on the total value; and

(c) the reasons for such thefts and the details of the action taken to check such thefts?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[*English*]

Achievement of Tourism During the Year of Tourism 1991

4081. SHRI KODIKKUNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the achievements of Tourism Year 1991; and

(b) the total number of tourists visited and the amount of foreign exchange earned?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA):

(a) The major achievement of the Tour-

ism Year 1991 include creation of awareness about India as a tourist destination in key markets abroad, promotion of 46 fairs and festivals along with special events and 18 travel circuits through publicity and marketing.

(b) A total of 16, 77, 461 tourists visited India during the year 1991. The estimated amount of foreign exchange earned during the year 1991 was Rs. 2, 918 crores.

[Translation]

Fake Courier Service in Delhi

4082. SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a gang running fake courier service has recently been unoarthed in Delhi;

(b) if so, the number of persons arrested in this regard;

(c) whether any action taken against them;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b). Prima-facie involvement of one Postman and two employees of a private courier firm in such activities in the Capital has come to the notice of the Government and those persons have been arrested by the police.

(c) to (e). Action as per law has been initiated.

[English]

Regularisation of Daily Wagers in MTNL

4083. SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are taking steps for the regularisation of daily wagers of the Mahanager Telephone Nigam Ltd:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of such workers who have completed a period of 240 days in continuous service?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Action has already been initiated to regularise all those temporary status mazdoors who have completed 10 (Ten) years of service vide DOT letter No 260-27/91-STN dt. 3.1.1992.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a).

(d) Number of such workers are at Bombay 2340 & at New Delhi 5870.

Irrigation and Soil Erosion Projects in Assam

4084. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals for irrigation project and the erosion by the rivers received by the Union Government from the Government of Assam during the last three years;

(b) the details of the proposals approved